Agricultural Situation

JANUARY 1965

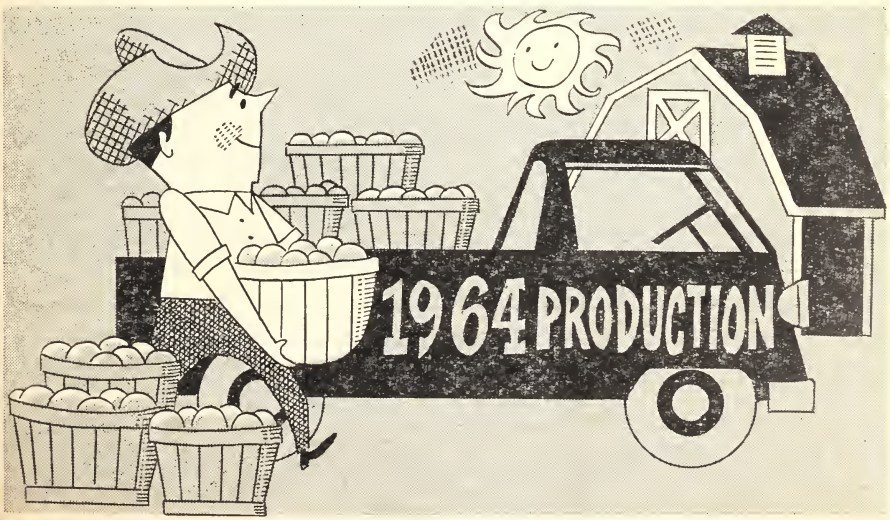
Vol. 49, No. 1

Statistical Reporting Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

1964 CROP PRODUCTION— 3 POINTS BELOW RECORD

The 1964 crop season took second place only to 1963 in total crop production although drought conditions threatened to cause major losses in some areas during the growing period. Midsummer moisture shortages and high temperatures lowered yields of the major row crops in the important North Central Region. Wheat production turned out better than last year and the 1964 season favored cotton, peanuts, and other crops in the southern part of the country. The all-crop production index of 109 for 1964 (1957–59=100) is 3 points (3 percent) below the 1963 level, but above all earlier years.

The uptrend in crop yields per acre was interrupted in 1964 for many crops. Lower yields were indicated for most of the late season crops especially those whose production centers in the North Central Region. Corn,



sorghum, soybeans, oats, flax, hay, and sugar beets are among the crops with lower yields in 1964 than in 1963. Several crops including cotton, peanuts, rice, tobacco, and barley set new highs for yield per acre in 1964. Wheat and rye yields were larger than 1963, but not at record levels. The composite index covering yields per acre of 28 major crops declined to 114 for 1964. This is 2 percent (2 points) below the record high in 1963, but 2 points above 1962 and exceeds all earlier years.

Production of the four feed grains in 1964 totaled 136.9 million tons, 13 percent less than the 1963 total. Smaller production totals were recorded for each of the four crops. Acreage harvested for the four feed grains was 7 percent less than last year with declines for each of the feed grains. Yields per acre were lower than in 1963 for each feed grain except barley. Production declines from last year were 13 percent for corn, 17 percent for sorghum, 10 percent for oats, and 1 percent for barley. The composite feed grain yield of 1.37 tons per acre was 6 percent less than last year's record of 1.46 tons. The 1964 tonnage per acre was the third high of record exceeded only in the preceding 2 years.

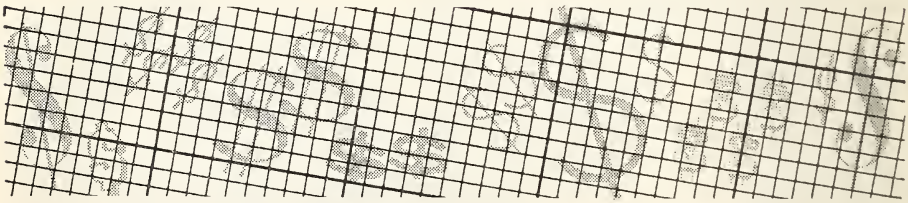
Food grains produced in 1964 totaled 43.3 million tons, 12 percent more than the 1963 total. All food grains increased from last year except buckwheat. Total acreage harvested was 8 percent larger than in 1963 with increases for each crop. Production of winter wheat, the major food grain, was 13 percent greater than last year and 1 percent above average. Total spring wheat production was 14 percent more than in 1963 with durum showing a 28 percent increase and other spring wheat 10 percent.

Rice production set a new record for the third consecutive year. A higher yield and a small increase in harvested acreage pushed 1964 rice production to 4 percent more than last year. Rye output was 15 percent larger than the small 1963 crop and 6 percent more than average. Buckwheat production declined 1 percent from last year, and was 17 percent less than average.

Total oilseed production for 1964 was practically the same as a year earlier. Soybean output held about steady and an increase in cottonseed and peanut production was offset by a decline in flaxseed. Soybean acreage increased 8 percent from 1963, but a lower yield per acre held the 1964 production to about the same level as last year.

Production of all kinds of hay totaled 116.3 million tons in 1964—about the same as last year, but 1 percent less than average. Production estimates include hay cut on acreage diverted under Government Control Programs in counties where this practice was permitted.

Production of all types of tobacco in 1964 totaled 2,230 million pounds—5 percent less than last year's record output. The average yield of 2,066



The Agricultural Situation is sent free to crop, livestock, and price reporters in connection with their reporting work.

The Agricultural Situation is a monthly publication of the Statistical Reporting Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250. The printing of this publication has been approved by the Bureau of the Budget (March 12, 1964). Single copy 5 cents, subscription price 50 cents a year, foreign $1, payable in check or money order to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402.

pounds per acre reached a new record and exceeded a ton per acre for the first time. Growing conditions were generally favorable except in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and West Virginia. Flue-cured production in 1964 was 1 percent larger than last year as a record high yield more than offset an acreage reduction. Burley output is expected to be 16 percent less than 1963 because of a lower yield and a 9 percent smaller acreage.

Production of sugarcane in mainland areas totaled 14.2 million tons—the fourth consecutive record crop—exceeding last year's high by 9 percent. The larger production was the result of increase in acreage. The yield per acre in Florida was about the same as last year, but the Louisiana yield was lower chiefly because of hurricane damage in October. The Hawaii total of 10.3 million tons was also a record high.

The 1964 production of sugar beets of 23.2 million tons was slightly less than last year's record high. Growers harvested a record acreage in 1964, 13 percent more than 1963, but a lower yield more than offset the increase in acreage. Maple sirup production was 37 percent more than last year and the largest production since 1957.

Production of popcorn in 1964 was 35 percent larger than last year, but 12 percent less than average. The acreage of popcorn harvested was 57 percent greater than last year, but the yield per acre averaged 2,160 pounds compared with 2,502 for 1963.

Dry bean production in 1964 was 14 percent smaller than last year's record and 6 percent less than average. Farmers harvested 3 percent more acres, but yields per acre were less than last year in all States except Washington. Production of dry peas in 1964 was about the same as last year, but 22 percent more than average. Harvested acreage was the smallest since 1960, but the yield per acre was the highest of record.

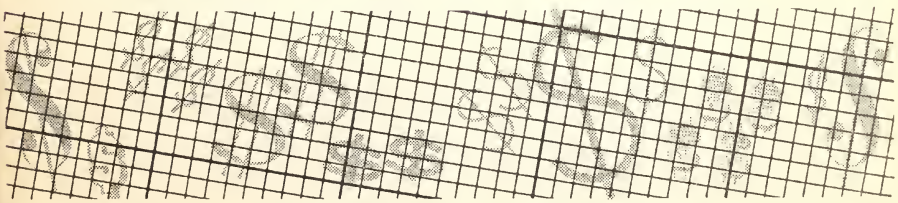
Potato production in 1964, excluding Alaska and Hawaii, totaled 11 percent smaller than last year and the smallest crop since 1957. The average yield was 8 percent less than the record high of last year and potato acreage harvested was 3 percent smaller. Each seasonal group had smaller crops than in 1963 with the late spring crop the smallest of record.

Production of sweetpotatoes in 1964 was 3 percent smaller than last year and 12 percent less than average. Acreage harvested was a record low.

Production of noncitrus fruits in 1964 was 7 percent greater than in 1963 and 13 percent above average. All crops except grapes, dates, and avocados were larger than last year. Sour cherries, nectarines, and plums were record highs. The grape crop was second only to last year's record high and the sweet cherry crop was also the second largest of record. The apple crop was the largest since 1937 although early season prospects were lowered by limited sizing of the fruit. A freeze the last of March severely damaged the peach crop in the southeastern part of the United States with North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama producing only 20 percent as many peaches as they harvested in 1963.

Production of edible nuts (almonds, filberts, pecans, and walnuts) in 1964 was 30 percent below last year's record tonnage. The pecan crop was not much more than one-third as large as last year's record crop but the almond, filbert, and walnut crops were each larger than in 1963. Production of both almonds and walnuts was above average.

Byron Bookhout
Statistical Reporting Service



UPTREND IN BROILERS LOSES MOMENTUM

The broiler industry expanded rapidly in earlier years but has now settled down to more gradual growth. Broiler production increased only 27 percent in the past 5 years compared with increases of 75 percent in the preceding 5 years (1953–58) and 155 percent between 1948 and 1953.

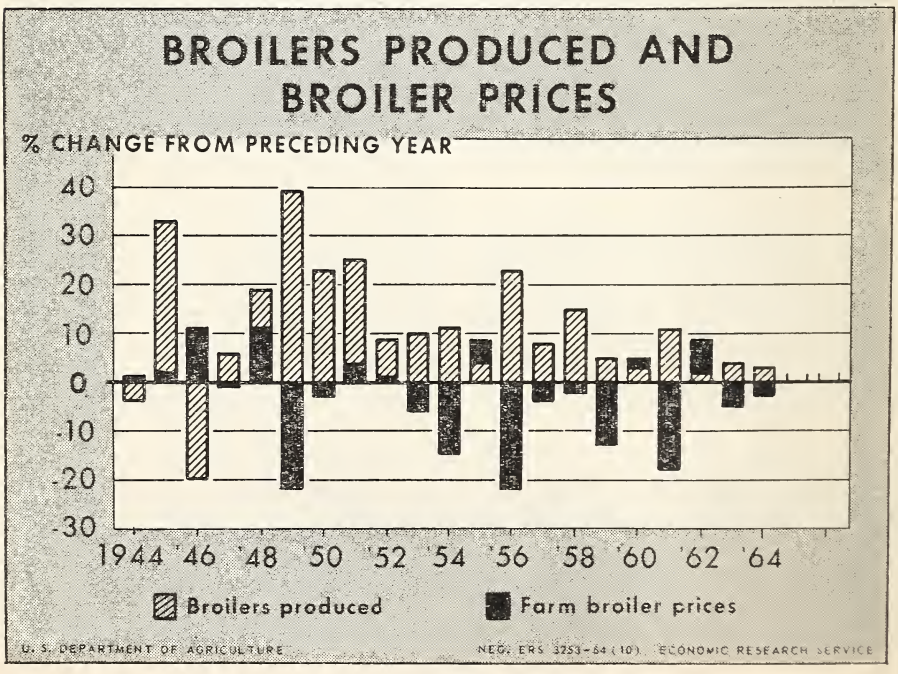
During the decade before 1953, production expanded at relatively high and stable prices. In some instances, output rose by 10 percent or more from year to year without lowering prices. After 1953, however, such production increases brought about lower prices. In 1963 and 1964 production rises of 4 and 3 percent led to lower prices. (See chart below.)

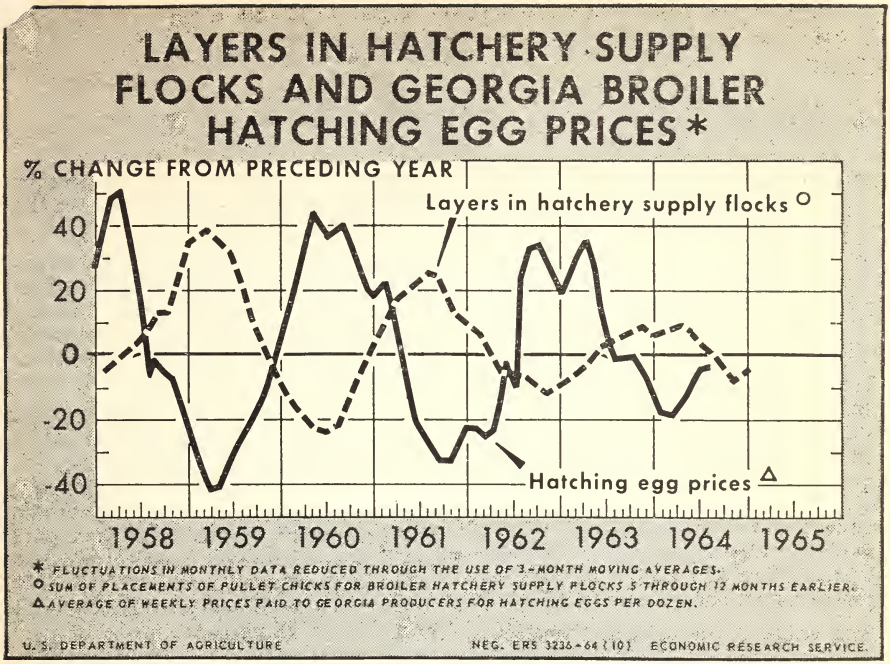
Prior to 1953, the broiler industry was relatively small. Output expansion largely offset declining supplies of chicken meat from other sources. Demand was strong. Per capita use of all chickens rose from 18 pounds in 1947 to 22 pounds in 1952 as retail prices of broilers and fryers rose from 57 cents per pound to 60 cents. Improved broiler quality and product form—particularly the rapid shift from New York-dressed to ready-to-cook birds—bolstered demand and producer prices.

Improved technology and changes in organization and structure within the broiler industry brought on most of the production expansion after 1953. These influences greatly reduced costs of production and marketing. They also created strong pressure for overexpansion of facilities and higher production. All this led to vigorous interregional competition. As a result, output continued to trend upward, lowering prices and narrowing profit margins.

Consumers responded to lower prices and increased chicken use from 22.8 pounds per capita in 1954 to the over 31 pounds expected for 1964. Improvements in quality, convenience, and availability also strengthened demand and encouraged greater consumption.

The broiler industry has made use of most of the cost reduction possibilities





available in present technology. Further advances in technology are not likely to be as spectacular so future cost reductions will be less rapid. Merchandizing and promotional innovations could further strengthen the demand for broilers but future changes may have less impact than the shift from marketing fully dressed birds to cutup birds and parts. All of this suggests that increases in broiler production will have to about parallel U.S. population growth and export growth if prices and returns to the industry are to remain at current levels.

Price and volume data for the broiler industry in recent years also show rhythmic rises and falls. The chart shows this for layers in hatchery supply flocks and hatching egg prices. Similar and related movements can also be seen in broiler chick placements and in prices of broiler chicks and broilers. In a period as short as a year, these developments dominate the outlook for broiler production and prices. Lows in the price of broiler hatching eggs, broiler chicks, and broilers in 1959, 1961, and 1964 were associated with highs in the Nation's hatchery supply flock. However, over the past 7 years the swings in the number of broiler breeders have become smaller. The first cycle reached a peak in 1959 when 138 percent as many layers produced hatching eggs than the year before. Numbers also peaked in 1961 (at 127 percent of a year earlier) and in 1964 (at 110 percent of a year earlier). Troughs also have become successively shallower, with 1960 falling below the year before by 25 percent, 1962 below 1961 by 12 percent, and this year below 1963 by 8 percent.

Expansions and contractions in flocks supplying hatching eggs were reduced over the past 7 years with more vertical coordination of production and marketing, a reduction in the number of decision makers, and a shift in decision making from the farm toward the processor and retailer. The greater stability reflects better production scheduling to fit demand. It has reduced price risk and permitted the industry to operate on narrower profit margins. This trend is expected to continue. In fact, supply flock production and price cycles may disappear eventually, giving way to a steady secular growth.

Herman Bluestone
Economic Research Service

FRESH VEGETABLE PRODUCTION DOWN 3 PERCENT FROM 1963

Production of the 27 principal fresh market vegetables and melons in 1964 was 3 percent less than in the previous year but slightly more than average. Production totaled 213.9 million hundredweight compared with 221.2 million in 1963 and the 5-year average of 213.4 million.

Major vegetables and melons contributing most to the decrease from the previous year were cantaloups, carrots, celery, sweet corn, lettuce, and watermelons. Record high tonnages of artichokes, cucumbers, and garlic were produced and an increase over 1963 was also registered for tomatoes. The lowest production of record was recorded for asparagus, snap beans, and beets.

The value of the principal vegetable and melon crops in 1964 totaled $965.4 million, 5 percent above the previous year. Tomatoes, at $177 million, and lettuce, at $170 million, accounted for 36 percent of the U.S. total, about the same percentages as in the previous year.

Strawberry production of 549 million pounds was 8 percent more than in 1963 and 9 percent above average. Of the total 1964 production 54 percent was used for fresh market and 46 percent went to processors. Mint oil production in 1964 was valued at $13.3 million.

California continued to be the leading producer of fresh vegetables and melons with nearly a fourth of the U.S. acreage, and a third of the production and value. Florida stayed in second place in acreage, production, and value. In 1964 the five leading States—California, Florida, Texas, Arizona, and New York—accounted for 62 percent of the Nation's harvested acreage, 69 percent of the production, and 73 percent of the value.

Production of the 10 principal vegetable crops grown in the United States for commercial processing totaled 8,046,000 tons in 1964, 1 percent more than in 1963 and 2 percent more than the 1958–62 average.

The increase from 1963 was primarily the result of a moderate increase in tonnage of tomatoes for processing. In 1964, tomato tonnage was up 12 percent from the previous year and accounted for 56 percent of the total processed vegetable tonnage for the 10 crops. All other crops showed a decline from 1963 in quantity processed, with cabbage for kraut down 24 percent; beets, 21 percent; sweet corn, 13 percent; cucumbers for pickles, 10 percent; asparagus and green lima beans, 8 percent; green peas, 7 percent; spinach, 5 percent; and snap beans, 1 percent.

U.S. yields for processed vegetable crops were below 1963 except for tomatoes and spinach. Tomatoes averaged 17.0 tons per acre, the highest of record, and spinach averaged 5.7 tons per acre, the same as in 1963.

The 1964 prices for processing vegetable crops are not comparable with 1963 and earlier years because in 1964, the price used in determining the crop value is the per unit value at the processing plant door. Prior to 1963, the price referred to the average price received by growers at the receiving point. On the new basis, the value of all vegetables harvested for processing in 1964 totaled $344,648,000.

Oakley M. Frost
Statistical Reporting Service

WINTER WHEAT PLANTINGS—
Acreage Up 4 Percent, Largest Since 1953

Wheat growers seeded 45.1 million acres of winter wheat in the fall of 1964 for harvest in 1965—4 percent more than in the previous year and the largest fall seedings since 1953. Acreages were increased in nearly all of the Plains and Western States. Generally smaller acreages were seeded in States bordering the Mississippi River and to the East. The 1964 fall seedings were planted with national and farm acreage allotments in effect but with compliance on a voluntary basis.

As of December 1 the Crop Reporting Board estimated the 1965 winter wheat crop to total 1,042 million bushels, 2 percent larger than the 1964 crop and 8 percent above the 1959–63 average.

As of the first of December it was indicated that 87.3 percent of the acreage seeded for all purposes will be harvested for grain compared with 87.2 percent the previous year and the average of 89.4 percent. The acreage actually harvested for grain will depend on how many acres growers will divert under the 1965 Wheat Program as well as the usual factors of weather, insects, and disease.

Seeding of the 1965 winter crop started slowly in many areas because of dry soils, but most planting was completed at about the usual time. Germination was slow, uneven in some areas, and the crop made only limited early growth.

Kansas farmers added sharply to their winter wheat acreage, seeding 8 percent more than in the previous year and the largest acreage since the fall of 1953. Prospects point to a production 12 percent larger than the 1964 crop and 3 percent above average.

The sharpest acreage increases were recorded in Montana and Washington with Montana growers seeding the largest acreage in history. The Pacific Northwest States planted the largest acreage since the fall of 1952.

In the Central and Eastern Corn Belt States, wheat was seeded at about the usual time on a reduced acreage. A dry October slowed germination but November rains and favorable temperatures carried the crop into the winter in fair to good condition. All States in this area recorded acreage reductions with Ohio and Iowa planting the smallest winter wheat acreages of record, which dates back to the 1909 crop.

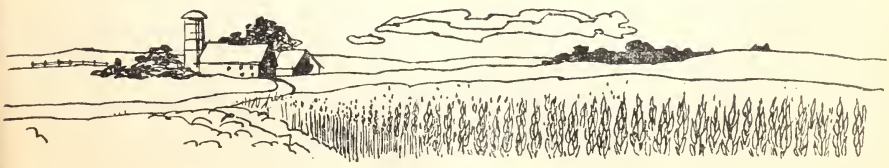
Estimated seedings of rye for all purposes in the fall of 1964 totaled nearly 4.4 million acres—6 percent less than in the fall of 1963 but 1 percent above average.

Seeded acreage decreased in most of the major rye States. Plantings were down in North Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska. Precipitation was generally below normal over the Northern Great Plains but was adequate for seeding and germination. Top growth has been slow and the crop is providing less than normal grazing in this area. In Kansas, most stands are well established and the Oklahoma acreage shows excellent development.

The Atlantic States seeded about the same acreage as in the previous year. Unusually dry weather delayed planting in northern sections but fall precipitation brightened prospects. Crop development in the South Atlantic and South Central States is above normal.

The major rye States of Colorado and Washington recorded sharp decreases in planted acreage. Total acreage for the Western States is down nearly one-fifth from the previous season.

John W. Kirkbride
Statistical Reporting Service



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Based on Information Available on January 6, 1965

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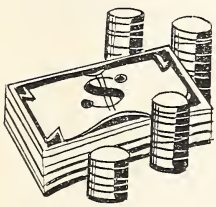
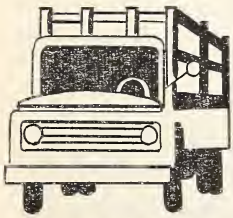


Farm income is expected to remain stable this year, about at the level that prevailed for the past 4 years. With the number of farms and number of farm people declining, income per farm and per capita personal income of persons living on farms will likely exceed the record levels realized in 1964. Continued economic expansion, rising consumer incomes, and population growth will further increase domestic demand for farm products this year. Cash receipts from sales of livestock and livestock products may show another small gain in 1965, reflecting a further increase in marketings but little change in average prices received. Smaller crop receipts will be partly offset by larger Government payments.

TOBACCO

Carryovers of big-volume cigarette tobaccos—flue-cured and burley—will be up again at the end of the 1964–65 marketing year because the 1964 crop production exceeded needs. Based on indications toward the end of 1964, cigarette consumption in 1965 will probably continue to edge upward and exceed the 1964 figure.



MARKETING

A rise of 1 or 2 percent in charges for marketing domestic farm-originated foods in the family "market basket" is probable for 1965. Prices paid by food marketing firms for goods (except raw materials) and services will continue to increase moderately.

Largest U.S. Cotton Crop Since 1953 . . .

Record average yields helped push the 1964 U.S. cotton crop to an estimated 15,356,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight), the largest crop since 1953, and fractionally larger than last season.

The average yield for 1964 was 524 pounds of lint per harvested acre for the Nation compared with previous high in 1963 of 517 pounds and the 5-year average of 454 pounds.

The effects of erratic weather conditions over much of the cotton belt during the 1964 growing and harvesting season were more than offset by the continued application of improved cultural practices. A cool, wet spring delayed planting in the southeastern and most central States with considerable replanting needed in some areas. Despite continued excess moisture in much of the southeast and lower delta, weevil infestation was kept low.

In northwest Texas and southwest Oklahoma, severe midsummer dry weather materially limited plant growth and fruiting on dryland cotton. Dry weather also reduced potential yields in central Texas. After a slow start, the crop in New Mexico, Arizona, and California made good progress during June and July. In California, under continued favorable conditions, plants fruited heavily and insect and disease problems were relatively minor. Cotton in some Arizona localities was damaged by rain and hail in late summer. New Mexico experienced a generally favorable fruiting and harvesting season.

Based on estimated bale weights and average seed-lint ratios, ginnings for the season are expected to total 15,317,000 running bales and cottonseed production 6,333,000 tons.

John J. Morgan
Statistical Reporting Service

Here's How to estimate the bushels of shelled corn or small grain in a cone-shaped pile.

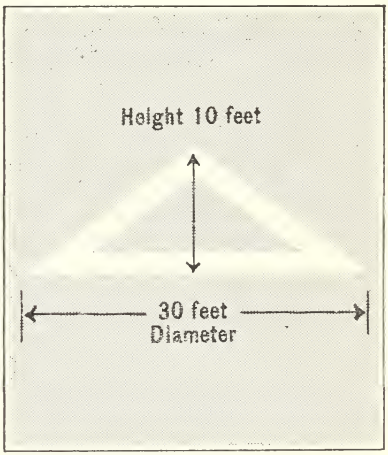
If you have a stack of wheat 10 feet high and 30 feet in diameter across the base, the solution is:

0.20944 x height x diameter x diameter = number of bushels

0.020944 x 10 x 30 x 30 = 1,885

If it's a pile of ear corn and you want to know the shelled volume, use the same equation with a factor half as large—0.10472.

0.10472 x 10 x 30 x 30 = 942.5



NEW BULLETIN

There is a $75 million food market in lunches for private school pupils that can be expanded, according to a report by USDA.

The report suggests that this food market in private schools can be broadened two or threefold by increased pupil participation under existing Federal lunch programs and by establishing lunch programs in private schools now without them.

Single copies of *Food Service in Private and Secondary Schools*, MRR–678, are available by postcard request from the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250.

EXPORTS IMPORTANT TO MOST U.S. AGRICULTURAL AREAS

It is getting easier and easier to see that every important U.S. farming area has a significant stake in the export market for agricultural products. This market was worth a record $6.1 billion in fiscal year 1963–64—about one-fourth of all U.S. commodity exports, and one-sixth of cash receipts from farm marketings. The United States supplied one-fifth of the farm products entering world trade and was the world's largest exporter of such products.

USDA recently studied the significance of this foreign market to the regions and States. Details were published in USDA's *Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States,* November–December 1964.

Three of the nine U.S. regions, according to the study, accounted for 60 percent of the Nation's agricultural exports: West North Central (26 percent), East North Central (19 percent), and West South Central (15 percent). Other regions and percentages were South Atlantic, 12; Pacific, 10; East South Central, 6; Mountain, 6; Middle Atlantic, 3; and New England less than 1 percent. About 2 percent of the Nation's exports could not be fully apportioned among the States.

States with the largest shares of agricultural exports were Illinois ($504 million), Texas ($484 million), California ($421 million), Kansas ($337 million), Iowa ($331 million), North Carolina ($321 million), Indiana ($251 million), Minnesota ($222 million), Arkansas ($207 million), Nebraska ($205 million), and Ohio ($201 million).

Here's a rundown of the shares of national exports of major commodities and commodity groups attributed to individual regions:

West North Central: 95 percent of the flaxseed; 40 percent of the lard and tallow, wheat, feed grains, meats, and wheat flour; 37 percent of the soybeans; 31 percent of the hides and skins; 24 percent of the dairy products; 23 percent of the soybean oil; and 19 percent of the protein meal.

East North Central: 45 percent of the soybean oil; 41 percent of the soybeans; 35 percent of the protein meal; 34 percent of the feed grains; 30 percent of the dairy products; 20 percent of the lard and tallow, meats, hides and skins, and wheat; 16 percent of the wheat flour; and 13 percent of the vegetables and preparations.

West South Central: 76 percent of the rice; 46 percent of the cotton; 43 percent of the cottonseed oil; and 18 percent of the poultry products.

South Atlantic: 86 percent of the tobacco; 39 percent of the poultry products; 26 percent of the fruits and nuts; and 14 percent of the vegetables and preparations.

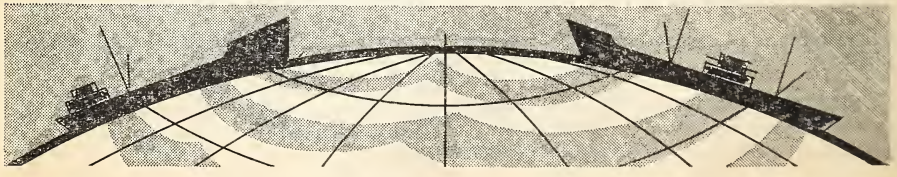
Pacific: 54 percent of the fruits and nuts; 34 percent of the vegetables and preparations; 21 percent of the rice; 13 percent of the cottonseed oil; and 11 percent of the cotton and hides and skins.

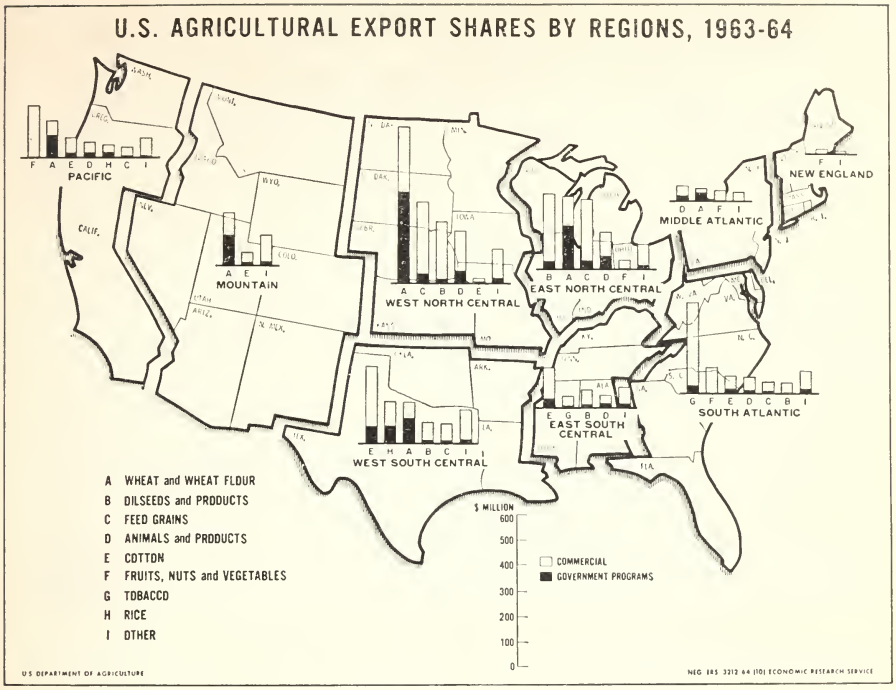
East South Central: 24 percent of the cotton; 23 percent of the cottonseed oil; 15 percent of the poultry products; and 12 percent of the protein meal.

Mountain: 15 percent of the wheat; and 14 percent of the vegetables and preparations.

Middle Atlantic: 11 percent of the wheat flour, dairy products, and hides and skins.

The study disclosed that an estimated 870,000 farmworkers—13 percent of



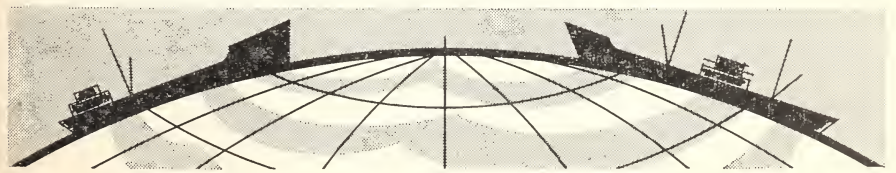


the Nation's 6,518,000—produced the commodities exported in 1963–64. Leading States where the largest proportions of farmworkers depended on the farm export market for their employment were Georgia, Montana, Kentucky, Arkansas, Alabama, North Carolina, Texas, Mississippi, and North Dakota. In these States, about one-fifth or more of total farmworkers produced for the farm-export market. Many others also produced for the foreign market, including those who contributed to processing, shipping, and storing farm products.

One can't help but realize from this study that a national policy of trade expansion is a means of helping the States increase their economic growth. Such a policy enables the States to specialize in goods they are most capable of producing. Competition encourages producers to improve methods, reduce costs, and market efficiently.

The United States exchanges what it produces more efficiently for the commodities that other countries produce at less cost. This is nothing new. The States as members of the great "common market" that makes up the United States have been doing it for some 175 years. The task is to have this principle universally accepted. For several years the United States has been working under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to press for removal or relaxation of trade barriers among the nations. The United States is now actively pursuing this policy under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962.

Robert L. Tontz
Alex D. Angelidis
Economic Research Service



Agricultural production as we know it today would be impossible without pesticides. Without them we would not have the abundance of food or high quality demanded by the American consumer. But pesticides must be used carefully. Here are some pointers:

Where you keep a pesticide is important. Store it where it won't contaminate food, feed, or another pesticide and where children and animals can't get to it. Examine pesticide containers every so often to check for leaks or tears.

Pour the pesticides carefully to avoid spilling. Measure them accurately and mix them thoroughly. These steps avoid waste at the same time they assure safe and effective use of the pesticide.

Give the label another reading before you mix or apply a pesticide to be sure you understand all directions and precautions. Use protective clothes and equipment if the label prescribes them.

Check your machine frequently to make sure the right amount of pesticide is being applied. Don't apply more than you need. Recommended amounts will do the job and cost no more.

Pay close attention to the times or intervals specified on the label for applying pesticides. If you use pesticides too often or at the wrong time, you're opening the door to excessive residues (and to possible seizure of your crop under Food and Drug laws).

Especially observe intervals between treatment of crops and harvesting or feeding and intervals between treatment of animals and slaughter.

Drift from pesticide application can be costly if it contaminates nearby crops and pastures or harms livestock, bees or other pollinating insects.

Continue to use caution when you dispose of the containers. Don't leave empty containers around or use them for feed, water, or any other purpose. Burn empty bags and cardboard boxes—and keep out of the smoke. Bury the ashes in an isolated place where they won't contaminate water supplies. Break or crush glass and metal containers and bury them, too.

A new publication designed for tacking up in the working area gives the ground rules for selecting, storing, mixing, and applying pesticides, and cleaning up after the job is finished. You can get a copy from your county extension agent.

GRASS AND LEGUME SEED OUTPUT TOTALS 814 MILLION POUNDS

Production of 25 kinds of seeds for hay, pasture, turf, and winter cover, expected to total 814 million pounds in 1964, was up 5 percent from both the previous year and the average. Increases of 15 kinds more than offset decreases for 10 other seed crops. Many crops had good yields—acreage harvested for seeds was down 7 percent below 1963 and 12 percent below average.

Weather conditions affecting seed production in 1964 varied widely. Most fields came through the winter in better condition and had better moisture supplies in the spring months than in the previous season. Dry conditions in portions of the Central and Eastern States reduced yields, and the need for additional hay and pasture limited acreage harvested for seed.

In the increasingly important Pacific Northwest, the season was good for growth and development of seed crops. However, later in the season intermittent sunny and rainy weather prolonged harvest.

Production in 1964 of Kentucky bluegrass other than Merion in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, was 13,388,000 pounds, 21 percent more than in 1963. Total 1964 production of all varieties of Kentucky bluegrass in the Pacific Northwest and the Central States was 20,944,000 pounds, 21 percent more than a year earlier.

Record high yields were obtained for alfalfa, red clover, Merion Kentucky bluegrass, bentgrass, Sudangrass, and crimson clover. The smallest acreage of record was harvested for redtop, and Sudangrass seeds.

Among the year-to-year variations in seed production, the most notable changes were for smooth bromegrass, orchardgrass, and lupine—all up more than 50 percent from 1963. Largest declines were shown by white clover, Sudangrass, and purple vetch—all of which were down more than a third from 1963.

Carryover by dealers and farmers of 25 kinds of seeds on June 30, 1964 totaled 225 million pounds, 16 percent more than a year earlier, but 13 percent less than average. Carryover of hay and pasture legume seeds was 30 percent above the previous year, but 11 percent below average. Stocks of grass seeds held by dealers and farmers were up 9 percent from 1963, but down 24 percent from average. For the winter cover crops, stocks were 8 percent above June 30, 1963, and 2 percent above average.

The 1964 production plus the carryover of June 30, 1964, gives an initial supply of the 25 kinds of seeds of 1,039 million pounds, 7 percent more than in 1963. Seed supplies were smaller for legumes, and larger for grasses and winter cover crops.

Prices received by growers for sales of 1964 crop seeds were above 1963 prices for 6 crops and below for 18. Prices were higher than in 1963 for alfalfa, Ladino clover, Merion Kentucky bluegrass, Chewings fescue, and hairy vetch. Total value of the 1964 production of 24 kinds of seeds, at $119.1 million, is 13 percent below the value of the 1963 production.

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DECEMBER PIG CROP REPORT—INVENTORY AND INTENTIONS

The Nation's farms had 58,217,000 hogs and pigs on December 1, 1964—8 percent less than a year earlier. Of this total 8,764,000 head are being kept for breeding—a drop of 8 percent from a year earlier reflecting the decrease in the number of sows farrowing. Hogs and pigs other than those kept for breeding totaled 49,453,000 head, also a drop of 8 percent from a year earlier.

Classified by weight groups, the number of other hogs and pigs on hand December 1, 1964 and the percentage change from a year earlier are: less than 60 pounds, 17,070,000 head, down 11 percent; 60–119 pounds, 13,390,000 head, down 6 percent; 120–179 pounds, 10,444,000 head, down 7 percent; 180–219 pounds, 6,299,000 head, down 7 percent; and 220 pounds and over, 2,250,000 head, down 6 percent.

The 10 Corn Belt States—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas—had 7 percent fewer hogs on farm than a year earlier—a total of 44,983,000 head. Iowa, the leading hog State, decreased 5 percent in the number on hand. Illinois had a drop of 6 percent and Indiana dropped 10 percent.

The Nation's pig crop during June–November 1964 is estimated at 40,456,000 head, down 8 percent from a year earlier. Each region reported a decline from the same period in 1963. Decreases were South Central, 12 percent; North Atlantic, 10 percent; East–North Central, South Atlantic, and West, each 9 percent; and West North Central, 6 percent.

The 5,607,000 sows farrowed during June–November 1964 is 8 percent less than a year earlier. A drop of 7 percent was indicated by the June report on breeders' intentions. The average of 7.22 pigs per litter is slightly under last year's record high of 7.23 pigs per litter.

Monthly declines from a year earlier were: June, 1 percent; July, 9 percent; August, 11 percent; September, 8 percent; October, 11 percent; and November, 6 percent.

The 10 Corn Belt States produced 16,273,000 pigs during the June–August 1964 quarter, 7 percent less than a year earlier. The number of sows farrowed totaled 2,256,000 head, 7 percent below a year earlier. The September–November pig crop in the 10 States totaled 14,859,000 pigs, a drop of 8 percent from the comparable 1963 crop. During this quarter 2,056,000 sows were farrowed producing an average of 7.23 pigs per litter.

For the United States, the December 1963–May 1964 pig crop was 47,911,000 head, 6 percent under a year earlier. A total of 6,629,000 sows farrowed during these months, down 7 percent from a year earlier, but the average of 7.23 pigs per litter is up from the 7.15 a year earlier.

The December–May pig crop in the 10 Corn Belt States totaled 37,937,000 head, down 5 percent from a year earlier. This year's crop was obtained from 5,231,000 sows and averaged 7.25 pigs per litter.

The total pig crop for the December 1963–November 1964 period in the United States was 88,367,000 head, 7 percent under the preceding annual total.

Looking toward the future—U.S. pig raisers reported intentions to farrow 6,163,000 sows during the December 1964–May 1965 period, 7 percent less than a year earlier. If these intentions are realized and the number of pigs saved per litter matches those of recent years, the 1965 spring pig crop will total 44.5 million head, 7 percent smaller than the 1964 December–May pig crop.

Growers in the 10 Corn Belt States indicated intentions to farrow 7 percent fewer sows in the December 1964–May 1965 period. Intentions are to farrow 1,626,000 sows in the December–February period and 3,261,000 sows in the March–May period—down 6 and 7 percent, respectively.

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1964 APPLE CROP . . .

The 1964 commercial apple crop totaled 140.3 million bushels, 12 percent more than the previous year's crop and 14 percent more than average.

Red Delicious was the leading variety accounting for almost one-fourth of the total production. Other leading varieties and their percentage of total production were: McIntosh, 13 percent; Golden Delicious, 8 percent; Rome Beauty, 8 percent; and Jonathan, 7 percent. These varieties accounted for 60 percent of the 1964 crop.

Production of Winesap apples continued to decline, accounting for 5 percent of the production in 1964 compared with 7 percent for both 1963 and the average.

Of the 1964 crop, 86 percent was winter varieties, 10 percent fall varieties, and 4 percent summer varieties. Delicious, McIntosh, Golden Delicious, and Rome Beauty were the leading winter varieties. Jonathan was the major fall variety and Gravenstein was the leading summer apple.

Apple production in the Eastern States accounted for 62.9 million bushels or 45 percent of the 1964 crop. The Western States produced 44.5 million bushels or 32 percent, and the Central States 32.9 million bushels or 23 percent.

Production was higher in all Central States. All Eastern States except New England and North Carolina harvested more apples in 1964 than in 1963 even though drought prevailed in much of the area and limited apple sizing.

In the Western States production was down primarily because Washington's crop was down 5.9 million bushels from a year earlier. This drop was partially offset by an increase of 3.6 million bushels in California.

Washington led the Nation in apple production with 26.0 million bushels, followed by New York with 22.5 million. Michigan was third with a crop of 18.5 million and California was fourth with 12.0 million bushels. These four States produced 56 percent of the Nation's apple crop.

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January 1965

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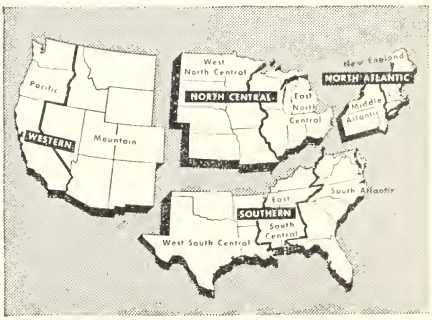

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